

STARS AND STRIPES

Monday, May 26, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

'We still remember them'

Survivors of 10th Mountain Division honor comrades

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

IMPRUNETA, Italy — It's been almost 60 years since members of the 10th Mountain Division attacked a series of heavily fortified positions in the hills north of Florence in some of the heaviest fighting of World War II.

But there are times, such as Memorial Day, that the years seem to slip away.

"It makes me think of my buddies — living and dead. Both," said 82-year-old Ralph Mattson, who was injured and earned a Silver Star medal in the fighting a short drive to the north.

A group of more than 200 veterans and their family members made the pilgrimage from the United States to Florence to remember their fallen comrades and loved ones.

It's become a tradition for the 10th, which lost almost 1,000 soldiers in Italy. More than 300 of them are buried in the Florence American Military Cemetery, just a few miles south of the city that draws millions of tourists each year.

But those visiting the cemetery Monday weren't interested in marveling at the large, marble statue of David nearby. After attending a memorial service, they were straining their eyes to make out the names on thousands of white crosses that sprouted hundreds of years after the time of Michelangelo.

To the veterans, some of those names belonged to faces from the past.

Peter Austin, making his fourth visit to the cemetery



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Peter Austin, a World War II veteran, salutes the flag during the playing of the national anthem at a Memorial Day service at the Florence American Military Cemetery in Italy. Crosses marking the burial spots of thousands of his former comrades are in the background.

with his wife, Jane, had one particular cross in mind. That one held the name of his friend Mitch, a fraternity brother who joined the unit at the same time he did.

Austin, a quartermaster with the division's headquarters, survived to tell about his experiences. His friend didn't.

He said there are still about 2,400 World War II veterans in the division's association, though there are fewer every year.

Mattson didn't let his age stop him from making his first trip to the area since he was injured.

Ruso Perkins, 88, was visiting the cemetery for the ninth time. A staff sergeant when he left the military, Perkins

made his first trip with other former members of the division in 1962. Every three years since then, with a few exceptions, former members of the division have made the trip — centered on the Memorial Day service and visits to some of the mountain towns they helped liberate.

Austin said the people of those towns often throw parties to thank the Americans.

Monday, hundreds of Americans and Italians gathered at the cemetery to do the same thing. Among the Americans was a platoon from the 173rd Airborne Brigade from Vicenza, which is currently deployed to Iraq. The Southern European Task Force (Airborne) also supplied a color guard and rifle squad.

James Nicholson, the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican; Rear Adm. Richard Jaskot, deputy for plans and policy for the U.S. European Command; and Italian Sen. Francesco Bosi, the undersecretary of Defense, were among those making remarks.

John Duffy, president of the 10th Mountain Division's National Association, paid tribute to the 975 soldiers from the division he said were killed in Italy and to the thousands of others who are buried in cemeteries around Europe.

"Their faces are now just memories, their laughter has faded into the distant past," he said. "But we still remember them."

News tracker: What's new with old news

States

N.Y. fatal raids: New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Sunday that the deaths of two unarmed New Yorkers during police raids are not signs of a trend, but added, "We won't tolerate mistakes."

Bloomberg was responding to questions about Alberta Spruill, a city worker who died of a heart attack when police mistakenly raided her Harlem apartment on May 16, and Ousmane Zango, a West African immigrant who was fatally shot by police in a storage warehouse Thursday.

Bloomberg said Zango's shooting was under investigation "but it would appear that something was done wrong, clearly" in the Spruill case.

Security at Yale commencement: Uniformed police officers with bomb-sniffing dogs were stationed around campus Sunday as Yale University began its two-day commencement celebration less than a week after a bomb exploded in the New Haven, Conn., university's law school.

In a baccalaureate address, Yale President Richard C. Levin told graduating seniors that the still-unresolved bomb explosion Wednesday and other events, such as the war in Iraq and the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, should remind them of the uncertain world they face.

Hazing incident: The 31 high school seniors suspended as a result of a videotaped hazing incident in suburban Chicago have been expelled, but will be allowed to receive their diplomas on time, school officials said.

The Glenbrook High School students will be banned from the school grounds and all school activities, including the graduation ceremony, but the school will freeze their grades at previous levels instead of automatically flunking them, said Superintendent Dave Hales.

War on terrorism

Active terror network: The Jemaah Islamiyah terror network is still active in Singapore and the city-state remains vulnerable to an attack, Home Affairs minister Wong Kan Seng said Monday.

Wong said the government had not received any specific terror threats, but Jemaah Islamiyah's presence was worrying and the city-state remains "vulnerable."

Jemaah Islamiyah is an al-Qaida-affiliated group blamed for the October 2002 bombings that killed 202 people on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, mostly Western tourists.

Philippines' most wanted: A Muslim rebel arrested over the weekend is an al-Qaida-trained extremist whose bombing skills and contacts made him one of the Philippines' most wanted guerrillas and a key player in the shadowy world of Southeast Asian terrorists, officials say.

Saifulla Yunos, who allegedly heads the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front's special operations group, was arrested Sunday with an Egyptian man at southern Cagayan de Oro airport as they tried to catch a flight to Manila.

World

Malfunction blamed in steep landing: A technical malfunction, not crew error, was to blame for the unexpectedly steep and off-course landing of the Russian Soyuz spacecraft bringing two Americans and a Russian home from the international space station earlier this month, Russian investigators announced Monday.

Nikolai Zelenshchikov, who headed the investigative commission, said that the Soyuz craft "entered a tough, ballistic descent because of a malfunction in the control system," the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Russian cosmonaut Nikolai Budarin and U.S. astronauts Kenneth Bowersox and Donald Pettit landed in the barren Kazakh steppe on May 4 nearly 300 miles short of the planned arrival site.

N. Korea nuclear crisis: North Korea repeated on Monday that it had all but finished reprocessing 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods, a move that could yield several atomic bombs within months.

The communist state first made the claim on April

18. But U.S. and South Korean officials said they could not verify it and suggested North Korea may be bluffing in an attempt to increase its leverage in talks with the United States over its suspected nuclear weapons programs.

On Monday, the North's official news agency KCNA repeated the claim and accused the United States of spreading false rumors in a "psychological war" against the North.

Serb-Croat war crimes: Serbian police have detained 23 people in connection with a 1991 massacre of more than 200 Croat prisoners of war near the town of Vukovar during the Serb-Croat war, the interior minister said Monday.

The statement by Dusan Mihajlovic came amid indications that a trial of suspects involved in the so-called Ovchara massacre could be the first major war crimes trial in Serbia after the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

Mad cow case: Test results have cleared a herd of cows linked to North America's first mad cow case in a decade, Canadian officials said Sunday.

Canada announced Tuesday that it had found one cow with mad cow disease in a herd of 150 in the province of Alberta. Cattle feed from animal sources contaminated with bovine spongiform encephalopathy is considered the most likely cause of the infection case, officials said.

Algeria quake: Diggers and bulldozers began demolishing buildings damaged beyond repair by last week's devastating earthquake as the government pledged Monday to investigate why so many new apartment blocks collapsed so easily.

As of Monday, the number of dead was at least 2,217, with another 9,087 people injured, Algerian national radio reported, citing the Interior Ministry. One newspaper reported Monday that an estimated 2,000 people were missing.

Housing Minister Mohamed Nadir Hamimidi said in an interview published Monday in the daily *Liberte* that the government would look into whether weak construction was to blame for some of the destruction.

Stories from The Associated Press

Nassau crew searching for second missing sailor

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The Navy and Coast Guard continued to search by air and sea Monday for a sailor missing from a ship returning from the war in Iraq, just days after another sailor fell overboard from the same ship and was presumed lost at sea.

Petty Officer 1st Class Shaun Dale failed to appear at a roll call 10 a.m. Sunday aboard the USS Nassau, and a search of the 833-foot amphibious assault ship and the Atlantic waters began.

"Right now, we are still in search status," Second Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Ernest Duplessis said Monday. "We have not recovered the petty officer or found him. He is still a missing sailor."

On Friday, Petty Officer 3rd Class Dwayne Williams, 23, of Philadelphia, tripped and fell from the Nassau while chasing a football about 900 miles off the Vir-

ginia coast, officials said.

The Navy had ended its search Sunday without finding Williams' body.

"It's devastating to us,"

Capt. Terry O'Brien said Monday on NBC's "Today" show.

"We made it through the war successfully," said O'Brien, commander of the amphibious ready group that includes the Nassau and two other ships. "Coming back home after a successful nine months deployment and then have this happen. But we've done everything we can. We did an exhaustive search for both sailors."

O'Brien said that as soon as the ship's captain, Capt.

Russell Tjepkema, was informed that Dale was missing, the ship "turned immediately around."

O'Brien said it was possible Dale had been injured or incapacitated and was still on the ship.

O'Brien said that when Williams fell overboard, the ship's crew responded quickly.

"Something was thrown to him immediately," he said.

"There was smoke and a life ring in the water within a minute when he went over the side. A boat was on that position within four to five minutes, and we had a helicopter airborne within 10."

Lt. Cmdr. Dave Werner,

spokesman for the Atlantic Fleet, said Dale listed a home address of Newport News, Va. Dale's family had been notified of the search, Werner said.

Williams' mother, Betty Williams, wanted more information from military officials.

"I'm not satisfied with the way the military handled telling me how he had passed. It wasn't done in a respectable way," she said.

"They [are] making it sound like he was up on top of the deck messing around."

"I want to have closure for my child. I want to know when, how he was up on top of that deck with no protection."

The Nassau, delayed a few hours by the search for the two sailors, was expected to begin dropping off its 1,100 Marines in Camp Lejeune in North Carolina later Monday before returning to its home port of Norfolk later in the week.

“Right now, we are still in search status. ... He is still a missing sailor.”

Cmdr. Ernest Duplessis

Second Fleet spokesman

Plane crash in Turkey kills 62 peacekeepers

BY SELCAN HACA OGLU

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — An airplane carrying Spanish peacekeepers crashed into a mountain in northeastern Turkey on Monday while on its third attempt to land in thick fog. All 74 people aboard were killed, officials said.

The plane was flying from Kabul, Afghanistan, to Zaragoza, Spain, with a refueling stop in the Black Sea port of Trabzon, the Spanish Defense Ministry said. Turkey's Transportation Ministry said the plane had also made a stopover in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The Russian-made YAK-42D hit a mountain slope near the town of Macka, 30 miles south of Trabzon, according to Turkish officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The plane apparently went down in heavy fog while approaching Trabzon airport, Gov. Aslan Yildirim of Trabzon told the private CNN-Turk television station. He said the pilot reported not being able to see the runway in the first two attempts, and the plane disappeared from radar screens at 4:45 a.m.

The airplane, which belonged to a Ukrainian company named Ukrainian-Mediterranean Airlines, carried 62 passengers — all Spanish peacekeeping forces — and 12 crew members, all of whom were killed, Turkish officials said. The dead on the plane included 41 army soldiers and 21 air force personnel, the Spanish Defense Ministry said.

The plane, which apparently carried ammunition belonging to the Spanish soldiers, burst into flames and exploded upon impact.

Turkish soldiers saw unexploded hand grenades among the wreckage and evacuated the rescue site, fearing further explosions, CNN-Turk reported.

The Transportation Ministry said radio contact between the tower and the pilot was cut off shortly before the news of the crash reached the authorities.

Turkish soldiers retrieved more than 30 charred bodies from the wreckage, said Deputy Gov. Nihat Nalbant of Trabzon. Nalbant denied earlier reports that the plane's black box flight recorder had been found. The army troops were from an engineering regiment and had just finished a four-month tour of duty, the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* reported. It said until now, there had been no deaths among Spanish troops in the 17 months they had been involved in the Afghan peacekeeping mission.

Ill. becomes first to ban ephedra

BY BRANDON LOOMIS

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — As he signed the nation's first statewide ban on ephedra, Gov. Rod Blagojevich urged other states and the federal government to adopt similar bans.

Blagojevich was joined by the parents of a teenager who died of a heart attack last fall after using ephedra. The diet supplement has been blamed for nearly 120 deaths.

"It's a good first step but it's not enough," Blagojevich said of the signing Sunday.

Ephedra drew national attention after officials investigating the February heart stroke death of Baltimore Orioles pitching prospect Steve Bechler linked it to a diet pill containing ephedrine, ephedra's active ingredient.

The herbal supplement is sometimes marketed as an

athletic performance enhancer.

The drive for a ban in Illinois began last September with the death of 16-year-old Sean Riggins of Lincoln, whose father said he was taking the supplement to help make first-string on the football team.

"We have to make sure that [young athletes] can no longer go to the store and buy ephedra as easily as they can chewing gum," Blagojevich said. The ban took effect immediately.

Riggins' parents, Debbie and Kevin Riggins, are working with Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, in seeking a nationwide ban from the Food and Drug Administration.

"With the signing of this bill today, we are the benchmark," Kevin Riggins said.

Earlier this month, nutri-

tional supplement retailer General Nutrition Centers said it would stop selling products containing ephedra. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush signed a law last week banning the sale of all diet supplements to children younger than 18.

The American Heart Association has urged a ban on ephedra sales, and the NFL, NCAA and International Olympic Committee have banned its use by athletes. The National Football League banned ephedra after the 2001 training camp heart stroke death of Minnesota Vikings offensive tackle Corey Stringer.

State Sen. Barack Obama, D-Chicago, the ban's senate sponsor, thanked the Riggins family for pushing the bill.

"They turned their tragedy — the loss of their son — into legislation that is going to save the lives of many young people and athletes," he said.

Sailor killed during N.Y. Fleet Week

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A sailor visiting New York for the Fleet Week naval observance was killed Sunday when he stumbled off a sidewalk and was hit by a car, authorities said.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Philip A. Simone, 20, was walking in Manhattan's Tribeca neighborhood about 3 a.m. when he fell and was struck by a livery cab. He died about 45 minutes later at a hospital, said Navy spokesman Capt. Bill Armstrong.

Police made no arrests but were investigating the incident.

Simone, of Garfield, N.J., had been assigned to the missile cruiser USS Normandy since January 2002, Armstrong said. His time on the ship included its six-month deployment to the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas and the Indian Ocean as part of the U.S.-led war on terror, he said.

About 3,500 sailors and Marines are in New York for Fleet Week.

Naval warships dock in New York and hold open house for the annual celebration while the sailors and Marines visit city sites.

School attempts Groucho record

EAST LANSING, Mich. — About 800 students and faculty members at East Lansing High School donned black glasses with fuzzy eyebrows and mustaches Thursday in an effort to break the Guinness World Record for Most People in One Place at One Time Wearing Groucho Marx Glasses.

The previous mark was 522 people. Particip-

pants at the 1,180-student school had to wear the glasses for 20 minutes to break the record.

"I didn't think that many people would actually do it," student Joe Kavanagh said. "I'm relieved and excited."

Kavanagh compiled signatures and photographs of the event, which he will send to Guinness representatives in the hopes of making the record official.

From The Associated Press

U.S. gets Women's World Cup

BY ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS

The Associated Press

ZURICH, Switzerland — The Women's World Cup will be played in the United States in the fall, returning to the country that hosted the highly successful event in 1999 when the Americans won the championship.

World soccer's governing body said Monday it selected the U.S. bid over one from Sweden, three weeks after moving the tournament from China because of the SARS virus. China will hold the 2007 World Cup.

The decision by FIFA's eight-member emergency committee was widely expected because the United States was considered best equipped to handle the 16-team tournament on such short notice.

U.S. Soccer Federation President Bob Contiguglia said he was notified by fax from FIFA President Sepp Blatter.

"There's no sense of relief," Contiguglia said. "There's no time, really."

The World Cup will take place in about the same time — Sept. 23-Oct. 11 — with only a few minor schedule changes, FIFA said. The exact schedule will be announced soon.

The tournament will be held in four to seven stadiums, and the sites will be

determined by FIFA and U.S. organizers during the next few weeks.

The last Women's World Cup was highlighted by a crowd of 90,125 at the Rose Bowl for the final. The Americans beat China in a shootout, making household names of Mia Hamm, Brandi Chastain and Briana Scully.

But the 2003 event most likely won't be so grand. Four years ago, games were held in June and July, with little competition from other major U.S. sports. This year, the World Cup will be up against the NFL, college football, the end of the baseball season and beginning of the playoffs, and the NHL openers.

"It will make it more difficult with these dates," said Alan Rothenberg, who organized the 1994 men's World Cup in the United States. "Ultimately it is tougher to nail down the stadiums we need to use because of possible football commitments. It's a lot easier when you have the summer all to yourself."

Unlike the men's World Cup, which began in 1930, the women's event is fairly new and is not embraced with the same global fervor as the men's tournament. The first Women's World Cup was held in China in 1991, when the U.S. team won. Norway was the 1995 winner, when Sweden was the host.

The leading contenders to hold the

U.S. games are RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C.; Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass.; Crew Stadium in Columbus, Ohio; and Home Depot Stadium in Carson, Calif., which opens in June. Other cities interested include East Rutherford, N.J.; Atlanta; Philadelphia; and Pasadena, Calif.

"While it won't duplicate what we did in '99 in terms of the time of the year and the years of preparation that we had, I think it can be special," U.S. coach April Heinrichs said. "There's a buzz about it."

Chastain, whose penalty kick gave the Americans the 1999 championship, thinks the tournament can provide a big opportunity.

"There's nothing quite like playing in front of 90,000-plus screaming USA fans," she said. "If we could do that again, it would be marvelous — not only for the players on the national team, but for every young girl especially who comes to any WUSA game or hadn't had the opportunity in '99 to come to a game."

U.S. Soccer plans to use staffers from Major League Soccer and the Women's United Soccer Association to run the World Cup.

FIFA said China will retain its automatic qualification for the tournament. Each confederation will keep the same number of tournament slots. Mexico will compete in a playoff for the final slot.

Johnson sneaks in Coca-Cola 600 win

BY TIM WHITMIRE

The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — The first sign that Jimmie Johnson had won was the booing of fans at Lowe's Motor Speedway. They didn't object to Johnson's victory — they were angry NASCAR called the Coca-Cola 600 because of rain after 414 miles.

Johnson found out he had won when he went to the NASCAR truck to check the radar for rain — and was congratulated on his victory.

The rain-soaked win was the Hendrick Motorsports driver's first of the season, and raised him to fifth in the Winston Cup standings.

Johnson had engine problems during qualifying, took a provisional to make the field and started in last place after his team changed the engine for the race.

But he worked his No. 48 Chevrolet forward, taking the lead for good on the 266th lap.

"To start dead last, 43rd, and march our way to the front, it's incredible," he said.

On a day on which drivers often try to "do the double" — run the Indianapolis 500 and Coca-Cola 600 — Johnson achieved a double of his own, winning NASCAR's longest race of the season eight days after winning \$1 million in The Winston all-star race at Lowe's.

That puts Johnson in select company, with Darrell Waltrip, Dale Earnhardt, Davey Allison and Jeff Gordon.

"Those guys are all my heroes," Johnson said.

The win also was redemptive for Johnson, who was running third behind Michael Waltrip when rain ended the season-opening Daytona 500.

Matt Kenseth was second, followed by Bobby Labonte, Jimmy Spencer, pole-sitter Ryan Newman, Michael Waltrip, Sterling Marlin, Dale Jarrett and Ward Burton.

Kenseth's strong run, combined with Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s 41st-place finish after brake problems, increased Kenseth's lead in the point standings to 160. Jeff Gordon is third, 216 back.

With a hard rain falling, the drivers came to pit road for the final time with 276 of 400 laps complete. Though the rain stopped, NASCAR called the race about 15 minutes later.

More than 7 inches of rain fell in the days leading up to the race, and officials said it would have taken three hours to dry the track and restart the race, with no guarantee more rain wouldn't come in the meantime.

"That would have put it at 12:30 [a.m.], and you're talking about fatigue," NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter said. "Fatigue for the drivers, fatigue for the fans, fatigue for the people who have been out here all day."

Labonte was caught off-guard. "It would have been nice to go out there and run some more," he said. "It was surprising."

Kenseth led three times for a race-high 75 laps.

"I'm certainly not happy about ending the race at 9:30," he said. "Hopefully it will start raining pretty hard soon."

Robby Gordon was the only driver to try the Indy-Charlotte double and ended up driving 824 miles of a planned 1,100. A gearbox problem knocked him out of Indy early, and he finished 22nd.

After a plane-and-helicopter shuttle to the Lowe's infield, Gordon started 42nd and had worked his way up to 17th by the time the race was called.

Scores/standings

American League

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	30	19	.612	—
New York	29	21	.580	1½
Toronto	27	24	.529	4
Baltimore	23	26	.469	7
Tampa Bay	19	30	.388	11

CENTRAL DIVISION

Minnesota	29	20	.592	—
Kansas City	26	22	.542	2½
Chicago	23	26	.469	6
Cleveland	18	31	.367	11
Detroit	12	36	.250	16½

WEST DIVISION

Seattle	31	18	.633	—
Oakland	29	20	.592	2
Anaheim	24	24	.500	6½
Texas	23	26	.469	8

Sunday's games

Toronto 5, N.Y. Yankees 3
Cleveland 6, Boston 4
Chicago White Sox 8, Detroit 5, 12 innings
Baltimore 13, Texas 10
Anaheim 6, Tampa Bay 1
Oakland 4, Kansas City 3, 10 innings
Minnesota 3, Seattle 1

National League

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	34	16	.680	—
Montreal	32	18	.640	2
Philadelphia	27	23	.540	7
New York	22	28	.440	12
Florida	22	29	.431	12½

CENTRAL DIVISION

Chicago	28	21	.571	—
St. Louis	25	23	.521	2½
Houston	26	24	.520	2½
Cincinnati	24	26	.480	4½
Pittsburgh	20	29	.408	8
Milwaukee	18	32	.360	10½

WEST DIVISION

San Francisco	30	19	.612	—
Los Angeles	30	20	.600	½
Arizona	23	27	.460	7½
Colorado	23	27	.460	7½
San Diego	14	36	.280	16½

Sunday's games

Atlanta 3, N.Y. Mets 1
Montreal 5, Philadelphia 3
Florida 6, Cincinnati 2
Pittsburgh 8, St. Louis 7
Chicago Cubs 7, Houston 3
Los Angeles 5, Milwaukee 1
Colorado 5, San Francisco 1
Arizona 9, San Diego 5

Stanley Cup finals

New Jersey vs. Anaheim

Tuesday, May 27

Anaheim at New Jersey

Thursday, May 29

Anaheim at New Jersey

Saturday, May 31

New Jersey at Anaheim

Monday, June 2

New Jersey at Anaheim

Thursday, June 5

Anaheim at New Jersey, if necessary

Saturday, June 7

New Jersey at Anaheim, if necessary

Monday, June 9

Anaheim at New Jersey, if necessary

NBA playoffs

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Detroit vs. New Jersey

New Jersey 102, Detroit 82, New Jersey wins series 4-0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Antonio vs. Dallas

Sunday, May 25

San Antonio 102, Dallas 95, San Antonio leads series 3-1

From The Associated Press

Spurs lead Mavs

DALLAS — With Dirk Nowitzki in street clothes, it seemed the San Antonio Spurs would have it easy.

After all, the Dallas Mavericks weren't exactly dominating the Western Conference finals with their leading scorer and rebounder in the lineup. How could they do better without him?

For 2½ quarters, the Spurs found out all too well as a pesky, gritty lineup gave Dallas a nine-point lead. Then Tony Parker led a 26-6 surge that sent San Antonio to a 102-95 victory Sunday night, giving the Spurs a 3-1 series lead.

Parker had 25 points and Tim Duncan had 21 points, 20 rebounds, seven assists and four blocks, putting the Spurs within a victory of their second trip to the NBA Finals in five years. The New Jersey Nets already have secured their spot in the championship round, having swept the Detroit Pistons on Saturday night.

San Antonio's first chance to make it comes Tuesday night.

Business should be easier if Nowitzki and his playoff averages of 25.3 points and 11.5 rebounds are missing again. He's considered doubtful because of a sprained left knee suffered late in Game 3.

Although Nowitzki arrived at American Airlines Center on Sunday hoping to convince coach Don Nelson that he could play, the discussion ended when he tried to push off on it and couldn't.

Only six NBA teams have overcome a 3-1 deficit, the last being Miami against the New York Knicks in 1997.

Dallas will be facing elimination for the third time this postseason. Both others were Game 7s after failing to end the series earlier.

From The Associated Press